Study confirms young people welcome GPs raising issues of reproductive health with them

A recent study of female and male students at the University of Melbourne showed that while most respondents reported good knowledge about safe sex and the prevention of pregnancy, the majority underestimated the impact of age on fertility.

Students at the University of Melbourne were asked to respond to a questionnaire on parenting plans, knowledge about fertility and preferred sources of information about reproductive health. A total of 1,215 students – 285 male and 930 female – completed the survey with about 90 per cent stating they wanted children, most hoping for two or more offspring.

Student researcher Eugenie Prior from the University of Melbourne and the Royal Women's Hospital, said "This survey showed that while respondents regarded future parenthood as important, they are inadequately informed about factors that influence fertility."

The survey showed general practitioners and the Internet were the preferred sources of fertility information. Importantly, almost all survey participants stated they would not feel uncomfortable if their GP raised the topic of future reproductive plans during consultations.

Read more about the study on the Women's website.
Maternity eHandbook

The Maternity eHandbook provides clinical guidance for maternity clinicians caring for women during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period. The pathways of care quickly acquaint maternity care providers with clinical scenarios and provide consistent and practical advice regarding assessment, management and escalation.

It includes guidance on:

- Decreased fetal movements
- Induction of labour
- Preterm labour
- Preterm pre-labour rupture of membranes
- Pre-labour rupture of membranes at term

Download the Maternity eHandbook from the Health Victoria website.

GPs are tops - ABS latest stats

The ABS's latest Patient Experiences in Australia Survey once again finds that GPs have a very high satisfaction rating from patients. According to the survey, 83 per cent of Australians saw a GP in the last 12 months and around 78 per cent of patients have a preferred usual GP.

Read more

Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard

Heavy menstrual bleeding is a common problem affecting 25 per cent of women of reproductive age.
The range of management options for heavy menstrual bleeding has expanded and improved since the 1970s and 1980s, when rates of hysterectomy for menstrual disorders were first observed to be relatively high and to vary considerably between regions. Although hysterectomy remains an option, it is not generally recommended for first-line management unless less invasive options are unsatisfactory or are inappropriate.

As a result of the first Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation, which demonstrated a wide variation in care, The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a Clinical Care Standard on heavy menstrual bleeding.

The standard helps clinicians make sure that women with heavy menstrual bleeding are offered the least invasive and most effective treatment appropriate to their clinical needs, and have the opportunity to make an informed choice from the range of treatments suitable to their individual situation.

**Looking for information for your patients?** The Women's [web pages about periods](https://www.thewomens.org.au) include some downloadable fact sheets about specific issues.

---

**Consulting rooms to rent?**

**Do you have consulting rooms to rent in the Essendon, Moonee Ponds, Kensington, Niddrie area?**

The Women's is looking to lease two consulting rooms with receptionist services for two days per week (from 9am to 5pm) within an accredited general practice to undertake maternity care.

For further information please email [Allison Kenwood](mailto:allison.kenwood@thewomens.org.au) or mobile: 0419 849 106.

---

**Happy Festive Season**

*Thank you for your collaboration with the Women’s in 2017 and your provision of shared maternity care.*

Wishing you and your family, friends and patients a happy and safe festive season

From the Women's GP Liaison/Shared Maternity Care Team:

Ines Rio, Simone Cordiano, Jane De Marco, Aghar Tefera and Vasvi Kapadia.

---

**Contact**

GP Liaison Unit

Unit Head Dr Ines Rio

ph: 8345 2064

email: gp.liaison@thewomens.org.au